

making them " partakers of his holiness; " that he mercifully regards their weakness and pains, and will not let them suffer beyond what they shall be able to bear; that their great Leader has suffered for them more than they can suffer, and compassionately sympathizes with them still; that this short life was far less designed to confer a present happiness, than to mature them to a fitness for being happy for ever ; and that patient constancy shall receive a resplendent crown. An aged Christian is soothed by the assurance that his Almighty Friend will not despise the enfeebled exertions, nor desert the oppressed and fainting weakness, of the last stage of his servant's life. When advancing into the shade of death itself, he is animated by the faith that the great sacrifice has taken the malignity of death away; and that the divine presence will attend the dark steps of this last and lonely enterprise, and show the dying traveller and combatant that even this melancholy gloom is to him the utmost limit of the dominion of evil, the very confine of paradise, the immediate access to the region of eternal life.

Now, in the greater number of the works under review, what are the modes of consolation which sensibility, reason, and eloquence, have most generally exerted themselves to apply to the mournful circumstances of life, and to its close ? You will readily recollect such as these : a man is suffering—well, it is the common destiny, every one suffers sometimes, and some much more than he ; it is well it is no worse. If he is unhappy now, he *has* been happy, and he could not expect to be so invariably. It were folly to complain that his nature was constituted capable of suffering, or placed in a world where it is exposed to the infliction. If it were not capable of pain, it would not be capable of pleasure. Would he be willing to lose his being, to escape these ills ? Or would he consent, if such a thing were possible, to be any person else ? The sympathy of each kind relation and friend will not be wanting. His condition may probably change for the better; there is hope in every situation; and meanwhile, it is an opportunity for displaying manly fortitude. A strong mind can proudly triumph over the oppression of pain, the vexations of disappointment, and the tyranny of fortune. If the cause of distress is some irreparable